

THE MONEY VALUE OF AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Dr. Burkett Presents Facts and Figures Which Prove It a Paying Investment.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

In order to get this subject before our minds in a clear, practical way, let us take a common-sense view of the situation as we would a simple problem in the fundamental processes of arithmetic.

Suppose a young man is 18 years old and is ready to enter the agricultural college. Shall he go or not? That is the question. Will it pay to go? Suppose you don't go; how much on the average can you earn per day? Let us say you work three hundred days per year at seventy-five cents per day. The yearly earnings will be two hundred and twenty-five dollars. Suppose you work thus until you are sixty-eight years old, or fifty years, your earnings will aggregate eleven thousand two hundred and fifty dollars.

Now, instead of doing this, suppose you spend four years in the agricultural college. At an average expense of one hundred and fifty dollars the four years will cost you six hundred dollars. You are now twenty-two years of age and you ought to command at a modest figure seven hundred and fifty dollars per year until you are sixty-eight years of age. For forty-six years your earnings will be, less the six hundred for your education, thirty-three thousand and nine hundred dollars. Now, if you subtract the eleven thousand two hundred and fifty dollars from the thirty-three thousand and nine hundred dollars, you will have a difference of twenty-two thousand six hundred and fifty dollars. This represents the money value of a college education in agriculture, saying nothing of further possibilities.

But you are in school two hundred days for four years, eight hundred days. Now, if you divide this into twenty-two thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, you will find that you earn every day you are in school over twenty-eight dollars.

THE MONEY VALUE OF THE WINTER COURSES

In the same way let us see if the winter courses of ten weeks pay. At seventy-five cents per day, and sixty days, the working days of the period of the winter course, one would earn forty-five dollars. We know by actual experience from our own classes that the winter-course student, if he desires a salary position, can secure from thirty to forty dollars per month, with board, or a money value of forty to fifty dollars for his services per month. He works one year at forty dollars per month and makes four hundred and eighty dollars. Before attending the winter courses he worked three hundred days at seventy-five cents and earned two hundred and twenty-five dollars. The difference between four hundred and eighty dollars (less thirty dollars, the cost of the course) and two hundred and twenty-five dollars leaves two hundred and twenty-five dollars, the

money value of the winter course. It required this student sixty working days in college to command this price. This means the sixty days spent in studying agriculture returned the student four dollars for every day he spent at this work per year.

If you consider the winter courses in a case like this, from point of investment, we find that thirty-seven hundred and fifty dollars on interest at six per cent will earn annually two hundred and twenty-five. The student in the winter courses in agriculture, by the training he receives, does the same. We can therefore say that by investing forty-five dollars of time and thirty dollars in cash (for board, room and books) a young farmer can secure a legacy or a training that is worth thirty-seven hundred and fifty dollars to him.

This is a plain, fair statement of the money value of a training in agriculture.

Look at it in any way you like, it is a money investment to get an education. Everywhere there is a call for trained workers. The call comes from every part of the country and cannot be met.

Every boy of North Carolina who has answered the call has come forward with the vim and enthusiasm, and these boys are going to add to the wealth and the prosperity of our glorious Commonwealth in the future in a way most magnificent.

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Nothing is so good as well-rotted barnyard manure for the garden, and nothing is better than the manure-pit to get manure into shape for garden use—finely rotted and free from weed seeds. We do not, as a rule, pay nearly enough attention to the garden. It should be one of the important features of the farm, and considerable attention given to it will be well repaid. It will easily supply the table bountifully for six months of the year, and go a long way toward a supply for the other six months. Some of the practices of the old-fashioned gentlemen farmers of Northern New York State could be well copied, if I can believe what my father tells me. They kept their tables supplied with a great variety of fresh vegetables during the season, and stored away large quantities of roots and tubers for the winter. Housewives dried quantities of lima beans, pickled and shelled green, not allowed to ripen and toughen in the pod, and large bags of dried sweet corn which they boil and get from the cob exactly as though for immediate consumption. Okra, too, can be dried and kept indefinitely, and will be practically good for soups as fresh vegetables. But they had rich ground and the garden received every year a splendid dressing of well-rotted manure and so produced large yields.—Guy E. Mitchell.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR WESTERN CAROLINA.

The Waynesville Courier Discusses the Importance of Apple Growing in Haywood and Other Western Counties.

Haywood County does not begin to know her possibilities even in apples, to say nothing of general fruit-growing. But the apple is the fruit any way in Western North Carolina, considered from the commercial standpoint. While other fruits can be grown and very successfully, the apple probably surpasses any other fruit in development and yield.

If our farmers would devote the same time to apple culture as they do to corn or wheat culture, they would make at least \$500 where they make \$100.

There are already a few expert apple-growers in Haywood County, and through these attention is being drawn to Haywood County—the attention both of apple-growers and apple-buyers. Mr. Farrior's and Mr. Hall's premium apples at the Raleigh State Fair attracted apple-buyers at the North, many telegrams having been received immediately after those premiums were awarded, asking about Haywood apples in quantities.

Mr. Boggs this week is shipping out a carload of fine Haywood apples bound for the English market, where he will receive a fancy price for them. Some of his finest are the Newton or Albemarle Pippin, which variety has been known to sell as high as \$20 a barrel in England.

Haywood apples have won the premium at the Paris Exposition, the Columbian Exposition, at New York fairs, and at other fairs, besides at our own State Fairs.

This only goes to show the wonderful possibilities there are in fruit-growing, apple-growing, in Haywood County, if our farmers will turn their attention to it. There are fortunes in it. If care and pains are taken from the time the tree is set out until it begins to bear, and then if special attention is given to the picking and packing of the apples after they mature, there is sure to be handsome returns for the trouble.

A special rate has been secured from railroad authorities of 39 cents per 100 pounds from Waynesville to New York City. This is due to the efforts of some of the expert growers here in Haywood County.

Another thing every shipper should do, if he wants to build up a permanent business and get the prices always, and that is to see to it that every barrel contains exactly the kind of apples and the quality of apples that the label and bill calls for. If the grower and shipper would take pride in this matter of careful packing after he has done his best in producing the finest variety, his name would soon become a trade-mark, and whenever a barrel of apples bearing his name was seen in any market, that barrel would be taken without question as containing choice apples and at a choice price, while others would be left to rot or ped-

dled at a pittance because they were not carefully packed.

More attention to apple-growing in Haywood, and less to wheat and corn, and then more pains and pride in packing the fruit for shipment when it is grown, will make many a man rich where he is poor, and will bring peace and plenty where there was naught but sadness and scarcity.—Waynesville Courier.

North Carolina Farming Notes.

Newbern Journal: It is said that labor is exceedingly scarce on the farms, and what is secured is very unreliable.

Newton Enterprise: Many farmers are afraid that they have missed it again this year in sowing wheat. Some say the fly is doing more damage than ever before.

Kinston Free Press: It is said that the sweet potato crop is unusually fine this year in this section. The largest yield of the largest potatoes is raised this year that ever has been raised to the acreage.

Scotland Neck Commonwealth: Mr. C. T. Lawrence Monday showed a large collection of potatoes in his buggy. Picking up three at random, they weighed 15¼ pounds, the largest weighing six pounds and three ounces and measuring 19¼ by 24 inches.

Durham Herald: One farmer from Wake County sold two one-horse loads of tobacco Wednesday for which he received more than six hundred dollars. Another farmer from the same county sold two one-horse loads and received in payment a check for over \$425. This man told a reporter that he brought only his common tobacco, and that his entire crop would bring him some \$1,300 or \$1,400.

Wadesboro Messenger-Intelligencer: An unusually large acreage is being sowed in small grain in this section this year. Early-sowed grain is up and looking well.—A more favorable fall for all kinds of farm work was probably never known in this section, and as consequence the crops have about all been gathered and housed. Usually at this time of the year it is not uncommon to see many fields white with cotton, but now you may travel from one end of the county to the other and scarcely see a field in which there remains much of the staple to be picked. Corn, too, has been gathered in good condition, and the farmers are now devoting their energies to sowing small grain, of which an unusually large acreage is being seeded. As to the size of the crops, in our opinion an average crop of cotton has been made and gathered, and we believe at least 70 per cent of it has been sold. The corn crop is the largest that has been grown in the county in a number of years. Indeed, there has been enough made to meet the requirements of the county, and next year will be one year in which the corn-cribs of our people will not be in the West.